

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of treating a subject having a disorder
2 associated with increased extracellular Fas ligand titers,
3 the method comprising administering to the subject a
4 composition comprising anti-Fas antibodies in an amount
5 effective to inhibit binding of Fas ligands to Fas receptors
6 in the subject.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is
2 toxic epidermal necrolysis (Lyell's Syndrome), graft-versus-
3 host disease (GVHD), hepatitis, fulminant hepatitis,
4 autoimmune thyroiditis (Hashimoto's thyroiditis), malignant
5 tumor illnesses (e.g., melanoma), or HIV.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is
2 toxic epidermal necrolysis.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is graft-
2 versus-host disease.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition
2 comprises an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) mixture.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the IVIG is of
2 human origin.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition
2 contains a level of anti-Fas antibodies sufficient to
3 inhibit at least 40 percent of FasL binding to Fas receptor.

1 8. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition
2 contains a level of anti-Fas antibodies sufficient to
3 inhibit at least 50 percent of FasL binding to Fas receptor.

1 9. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition
2 is administered at a dosage of at least 0.1 g/kg/day.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition
2 is administered by infusion.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the composition
2 is administered at a dosage of at least 0.1 g/kg/day.

1 12. The method of claim 4, wherein the composition
2 is administered by infusion at a dosage of at least 0.75
3 g/kg/day.

1 13. A method of treating a subject having graft-versus-host-
2 disease (GVHD), the method comprising administering to the
3 subject a composition comprising anti-Fas antibodies in an
4 amount effective to inhibit binding of Fas ligands to Fas
5 receptors in the subject.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the composition
2 comprises an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) mixture.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the IVIG is of
2 human origin.

1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the IVIG
2 contains an anti-Fas antibody at a concentration of at least
3 0.1 mg/ml.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the IVIG
2 contains an anti-Fas antibody at a concentration of at least
3 8 mg/ml.

1 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the composition
2 comprises an anti-Fas antibody and is administered at a
3 dosage of at least 0.1 mg/kg/day for at least two days.

1 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the IVIG is
2 administered at a dosage of least 0.1 g/kg/day for at least
3 two days.

1 20. The method of claim 14, wherein the IVIG is
2 administered by infusion at a dosage of 0.75 g/kg/day for
3 four consecutive days.

1 21. ~~A method for determining the prophylactic~~
2 ~~suitability and quality control of a composition for use in~~
3 ~~treating a disorder associated with increased extracellular~~
4 ~~Fas ligand titers, the method comprising~~
5 ~~(a) incubating the composition with a Fas-Fc fusion~~
6 ~~protein in a solution;~~
7 ~~(b) adding to the solution a labelled Fas ligand;~~
8 ~~and~~
9 ~~(c) detecting the amount of Fas ligand bound to the Fas-~~
10 ~~Fc fusion protein as an indication of the presence of anti-~~
11 ~~Fas antibodies in the composition, wherein an amount of anti-~~
12 ~~Fas antibodies in the composition sufficient to inhibit~~
13 ~~binding of Fas ligand to Fas receptor indicates that the~~
14 ~~composition is suitable for use in treating a disorder~~
15 ~~associated with increased extracellular Fas ligand titers.~~

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the composition
2 is an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) mixture.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the percentage
2 of binding inhibition is at least 40 percent.

1 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the amount of
2 bound Fas ligand is determined chemically or physically.

1 25. A method for determining the prophylactic
2 suitability and quality control of a composition for use in
3 treating a disorder associated with increased extracellular
4 Fas ligand titers, the method comprising
5 (a) incubating Fas sensitive cells with the
6 composition in a solution;
7 (b) adding soluble Fas ligand to the solution; and
8 (c) determining the percentage of Fas sensitive
9 cells in which apoptosis is inhibited compared to cells not
10 incubated with the composition, wherein a composition that
11 inhibits apoptosis of Fas sensitive cells is suitable for
12 use in treating a disorder associated with increased
13 extracellular Fas ligand titers.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the composition
2 is an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) mixture.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein the percentage
2 of inhibition of Fas sensitive cell apoptosis is at least 40
3 percent.

1 28. A method for determining the prophylactic
2 suitability and quality control of a composition for use in
3 treating a disorder associated with increased extracellular
4 Fas ligand titers, the method comprising

5 (a) combining Fas receptors with the composition;

6 (b) adding labelled secondary antibodies that bind
7 specifically to anti-Fas antibodies; and

8 (c) detecting the labelled secondary antibodies as
9 an indication of the presence of anti-Fas antibodies bound
10 to the Fas receptors, wherein the presence of anti-Fas
11 antibodies in the composition indicates that the composition
12 is suitable for use in treating a disorder associated with
13 increased extracellular Fas ligand titers.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the Fas
2 receptors and the composition are combined in a Western blot
3 technique.

1 30. The method of claim 28, wherein the composition
2 is an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) mixture.

1 31. A method of preparing a drug to treat disorders
2 associated with increased extracellular Fas ligand titers,
3 the method comprising

4 (a) fractionating a composition;

5 (b) examining each fraction to determine the
6 presence of anti-Fas antibodies;

7 (c) isolating each fraction that contains anti-Fas
8 antibodies; and

9 (d) concentrating the isolated fractions for use as
10 the drug.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the composition
2 is an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) mixture.

1 33. The method of claim 32, further comprising
2 (e) purifying and isolating the anti-Fas antibodies
3 in the isolated fractions by affinity chromatography.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the affinity
2 chromatography comprises the use of column chromatography
3 using Fas fusion proteins bound to the column.

1 35. The method of claim 33, wherein the affinity
2 chromatography comprises the use of one or more
3 chromatographic columns, each column having linked thereto a
4 specific amino acid sequence of the Fas fusion protein that
5 corresponds to a specific Fas antibody epitope, wherein all
6 Fas antibody epitopes are bound to the one or more columns
7 and are then eluted.

1 36. A composition for the treatment of disorders
2 associated with increased extracellular Fas ligand titers,
3 the composition comprising anti-Fas antibodies that inhibit
4 binding of Fas ligand to the Fas receptor.

1 37. The composition of claim 35, wherein the anti-
2 Fas antibodies are of non-human origin and are humanized.

1 38. The composition of claim 35, wherein the
2 composition comprises an intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)
3 mixture from a human.